

March 1, 2023

Members of the Education Committee
State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB 1096

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Jonatan Soto, a Bridgeport resident. I am here on behalf of the Dominican-American Coalition of Connecticut and Latinos for Education Advocacy And Diversity. Today I am here to express my support for SB 1096. I can assure you that this bill is a step in the right direction for education in our State.

The bill seeks to streamline the authorization process and eliminates the unnecessary, excessive, rigorous and unfair process that is currently in place. In addition, the bill establishes a non-lapsing account for the initial funding of a charter school and provides a fair and appropriate timetable for the dispensation of funds after the granting of a charter.

While I support the bill, I must make two recommendations. First, the bill should go into effect July 1, 2023, to ensure that schools that have been granted initial certification and those currently in the approval process receive the full benefits of the legislation. Second, schools in the 2022 RFP process should be included in this section to ensure that they are not left behind.

I strongly recommend eliminating Charter caps which prevent charter growth in the state and limit options for students and families. Eliminating the cap would allow for quality charter schools to open in the state and provide more options for families, who are in desperate need of them.

In conclusion, I support S.B 1096 and urge you to do the same. We need to make the approval process for our public charter schools one that is fair and allows these wonderful schools to serve the families who need them and want them.

Respectfully,

Jonatan Soto
Board Member of The Dominican American Coalition of CT.

